

Claim 32 (new). The method of Claim 31 wherein the muco-retentive composition further comprises 0.005% to about 3.0% of citric acid or a salt thereof.

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Claim 33 (new). A method of providing a mucoadhesive coating to mucosa of the esophagus, stomach and small intestine by swallowing a muco-retentive composition comprising colloidal silica wherein the muco-retentive composition has a viscosity of less than about 1.5 pascal seconds when swallowed.

Claim 34 (new). The method of claim 33 wherein the muco-retentive composition further comprises a safe and effective amount of a pharmaceutical active selected from the group consisting of gastrointestinal agents, analgesics, decongestants, expectorants, antitussives and antihistamines.

Claim 35 (new). The method of Claim 34 wherein the muco-retentive composition further comprises 0.005% to about 3.0% of citric acid or a salt thereof.